Texas-Oklahoma Passenger Rail Study

Texas Department of Transportation
in cooperation with Oklahoma DOT

TOPRS Stakeholder Workshop #1

February 2013

Agenda

- Your role
- TOPRS overview
- Initial demand and corridor assessment
- Roundtable discussion: goals and concerns

YOUR ROLE

Texas Department of Transportation
in cooperation with
Oklahoma DOT

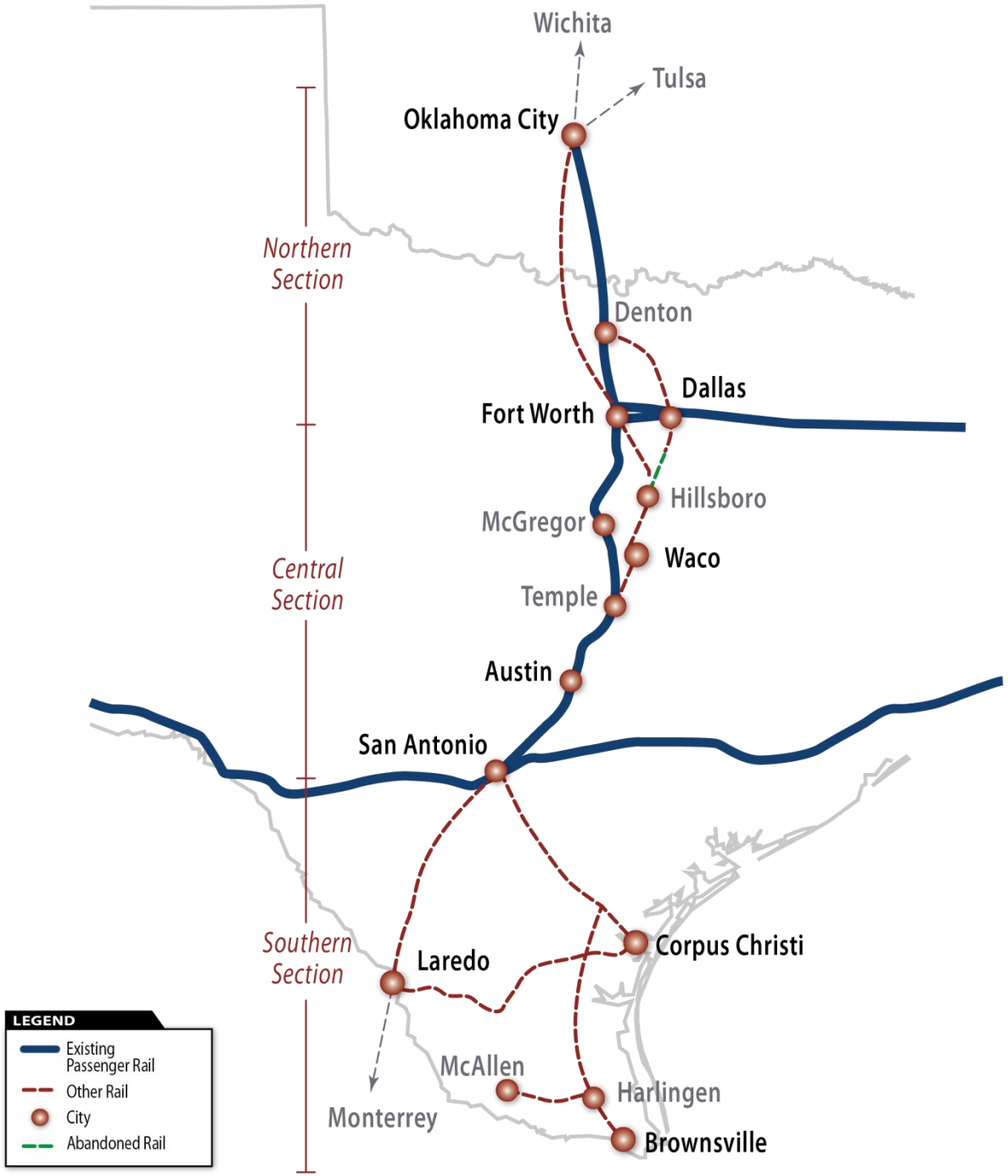
TEXAS-OKLAHOMA
PASSENGER RAIL STUDY

Stakeholder workshops

- Each meeting will be held in four locations with focus on a specific section
- Purpose is to hear from you, promote discussion among agency stakeholders, and inform study decisions
- Participants are a link between the study and the community

Stakeholder workshops

- Expected topics for each round of meetings:
  - Stakeholder workshop #1: Project overview, issues and goals
  - Stakeholder workshop #2: Input on alternatives
  - Stakeholder workshop #3: Confirm alternatives to study in EIS
  - Stakeholder workshop #4: Environmental analysis results
  - Stakeholder workshop #5: Recommended alternative and next steps
- Each meeting will focus on a specific section
  - Four meetings will be held per round
  - Locations will vary


Wichita
Tulsa
Oklahoma City
Northern Section
Denton
Dallas
Fort Worth
Hillsboro
McGregor
Waco
Central Section
Temple
Austin
San Antonio
Southern Section
Laredo
Corpus Christi
McAllen
Harlingen
Monterrey
Brownsville
LEGEND
Existing Passenger Rail
Other Rail
City
Abandoned Rail

Stakeholder workshops: working together

- **We'll record meeting discussion and input** – we won't be trying to reach consensus at milestones.
- **Meetings will follow an agenda.** Your facilitator will keep you on track and make sure everyone gets to participate. The team will provide you with available technical information.
- **Meetings will focus on a section.** You may need to attend more than one meeting if you're interested in multiple sections.
- **If you have specific questions or discussion items**, let Mark Werner know.

TOPRS OVERVIEW

Texas Department of Transportation

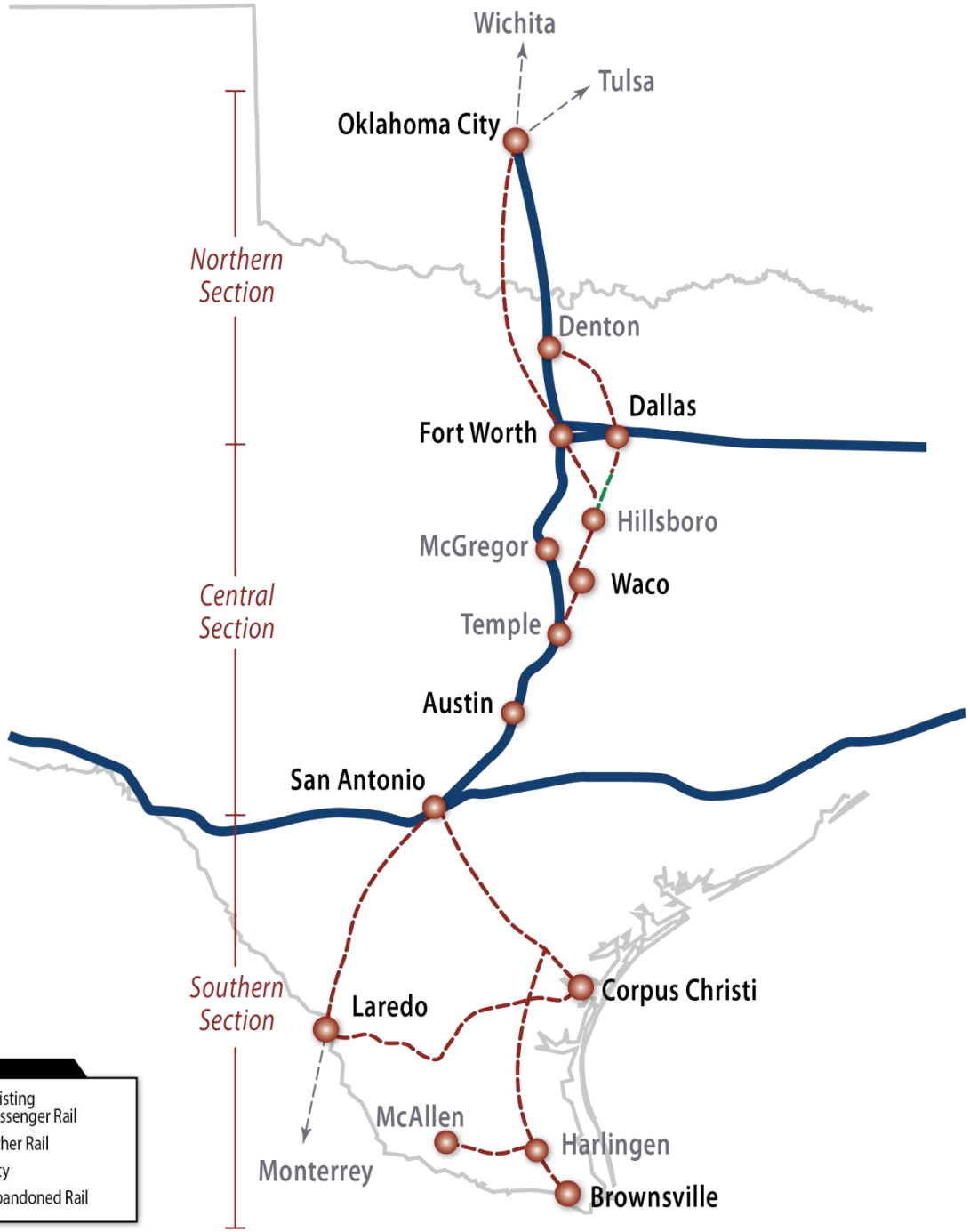
in cooperation with
Oklahoma DOT

TEXAS-OKLAHOMA
PASSENGER RAIL STUDY

What is TOPRS?

- Study of passenger rail options that will result in a service-level EIS and service development plan
- Led by Texas DOT (TxDOT)
- Funded by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the state of Texas
- Coordinating with the Oklahoma DOT (ODOT)
- Coordinating with North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG)

TOPRS study area and existing rail



What we're studying

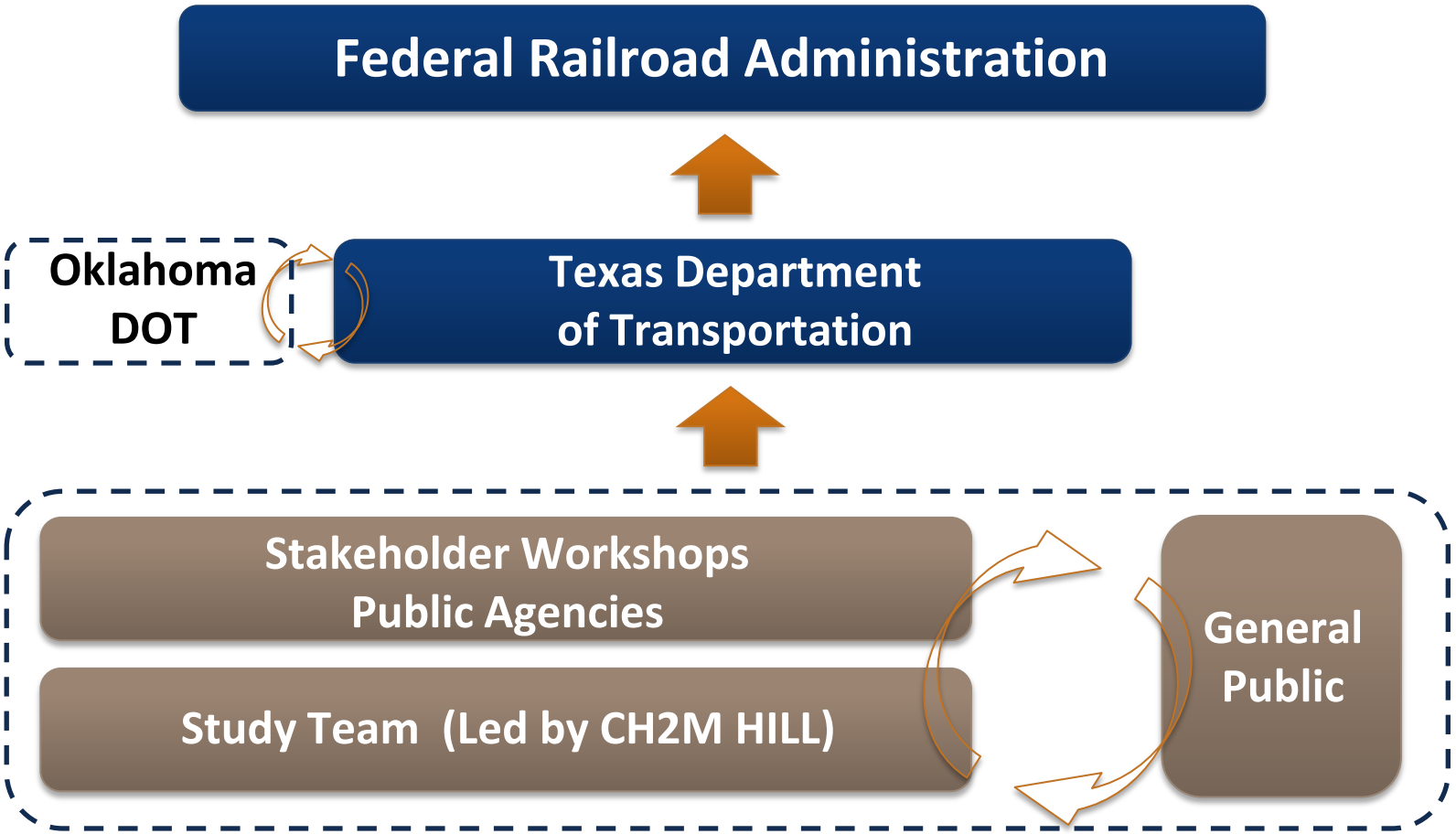
Under consideration

- Intercity and high speed passenger rail improvements
- Various speed and service levels, capacity enhancements, and connections

Not under consideration

- Commuter rail
- Light rail
- Streetcar
- Highways
- Airports
- Other non-rail modes

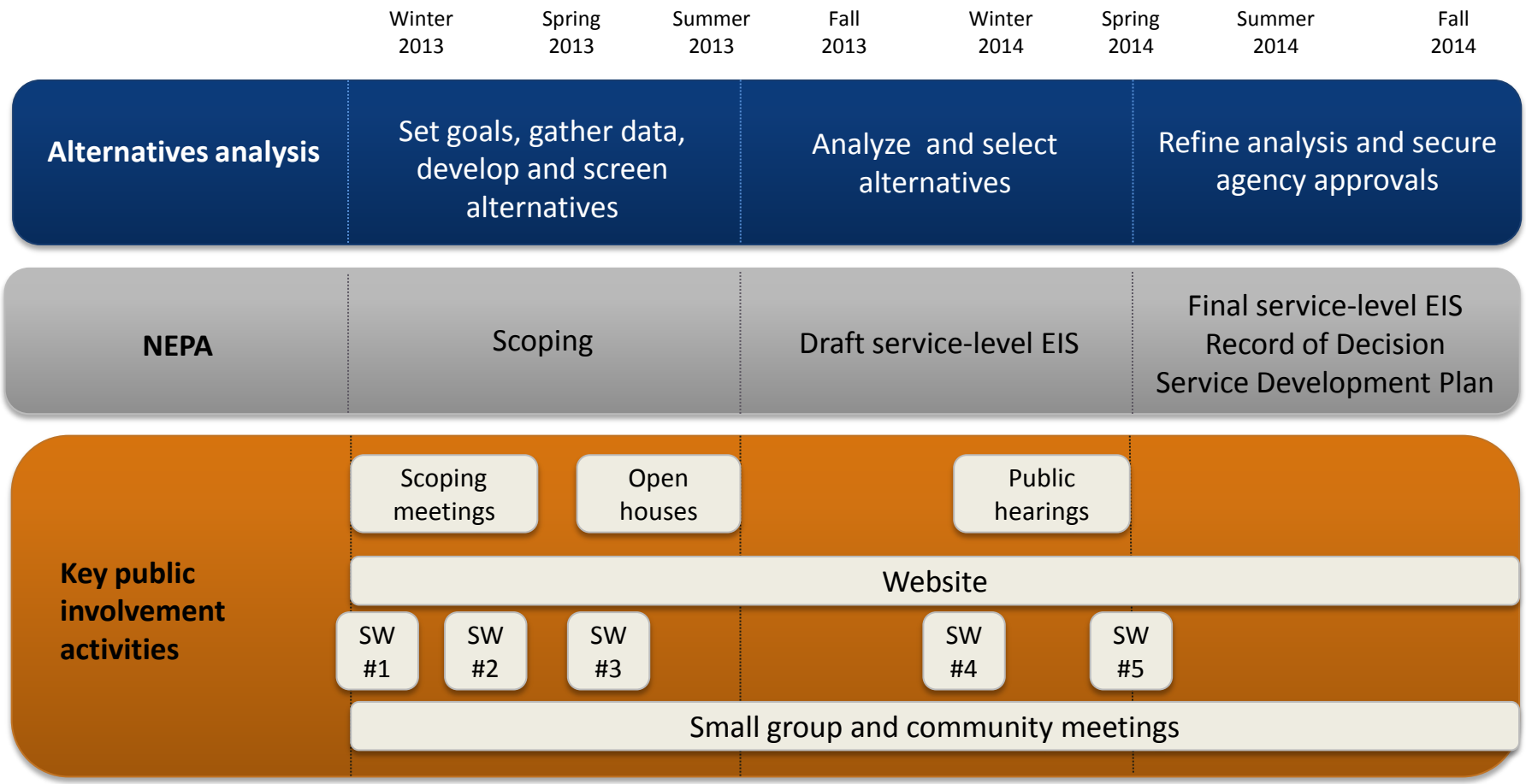
How are decisions made?



in cooperation with Oklahoma DOT
Texas Department of Transportation

TEXAS-OKLAHOMA PASSENGER RAIL STUDY

Schedule



in cooperation with Oklahoma DOT
Texas Department of Transportation

TEXAS-OKLAHOMA PASSENGER RAIL STUDY

Major work tasks

- Develop preliminary design concepts
- Prepare service-level environmental analysis
  - Conduct scoping
  - Prepare draft EIS
  - Prepare final EIS
- Prepare service development plan
- Conduct public outreach throughout study

First step: Scoping

- Scoping is a process aimed at collecting input on:
  - The purpose and need for the study.
  - The range of passenger rail alternatives to be studied in the EIS .
  - Environmental resources that could be affected by the proposed rail alternatives.
- Input will be collected online, by letter or at public scoping open houses
  - 12 meetings will be held in cities throughout the study area

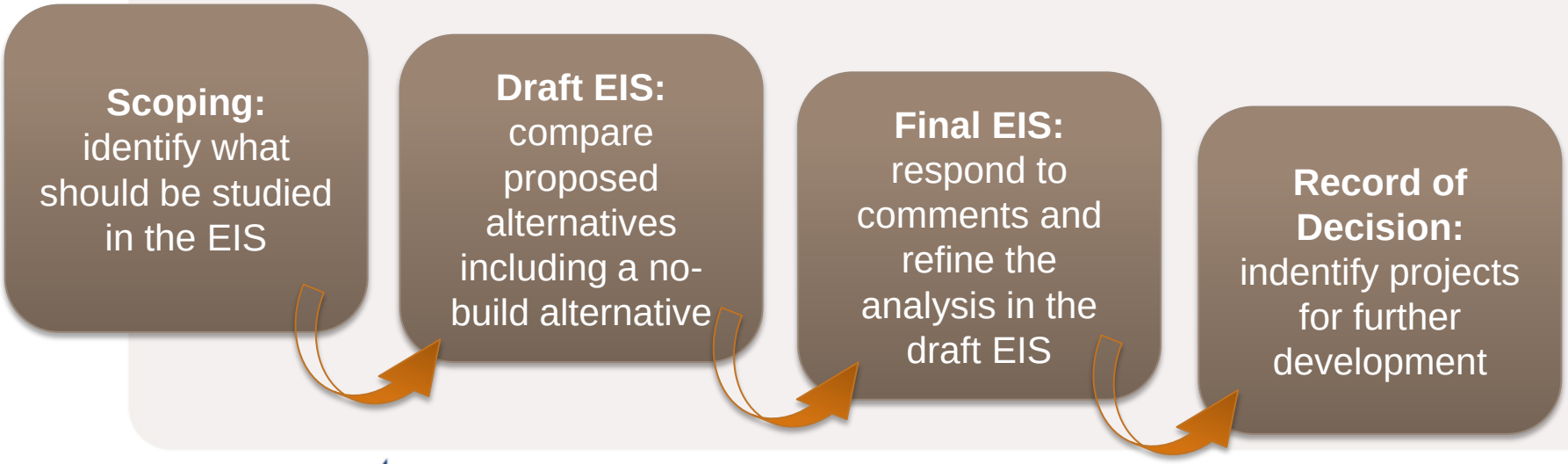
SERVICE-LEVEL EIS OVERVIEW

Texas Department of Transportation
in cooperation with
Oklahoma DOT

TEXAS-OKLAHOMA
PASSENGER RAIL STUDY

What is a service-level EIS?

- The service-level EIS is a high level study that leads to big-picture decisions (federally required through NEPA)
- TxDOT will document the impacts, benefits, and costs of proposed passenger rail alternatives



What will be studied in the EIS?

An EIS looks at a broad range of topics, including:

Natural resources

- air quality
- energy
- fish & wildlife habitat
- wetlands
- water quality

Community resources

- economic development
- land use
- historic properties
- transportation
- cultural resources
- safety & security
- noise & vibration

INITIAL DEMAND AND CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT

Texas Department of Transportation
in cooperation with
Oklahoma DOT

TEXAS-OKLAHOMA
PASSENGER RAIL STUDY

Types of intercity passenger rail

	Maximum/ average speed	Stops/ frequency	Typical characteristics
Conventional *(mostly uses existing tracks)* 	Max: **70-90 mph** Average: **45-60 mph**	Stops every **15 to 60 miles** **3-6 trains/day** each direction	 Unreserved and Reserved seats, limited business class seating, limited café food service, limited checked baggage, diesel loco hauled
Higher speed *(some dedicated tracks)* 	Max: **110-125 mph** Average: **70-85 mph**	Stops **30 to 90 miles** apart **6-12 trains/day** each direction	 Reserved seats, business class seating, café food service, no checked baggage, diesel and electric loco hauled
High speed *(fully dedicated tracks)* 	Max: **165-220 mph** Average: **100-150 mph**	Stops **50 to 100+ miles** apart **12-24 trains/day** each direction	 Reserved seats, business class seating, café and at-seat food service, no checked baggage, electric multiple unit

Common Attributes: *Single or double deck trains, stations with parking and transit access, operation on existing or dedicated tracks*

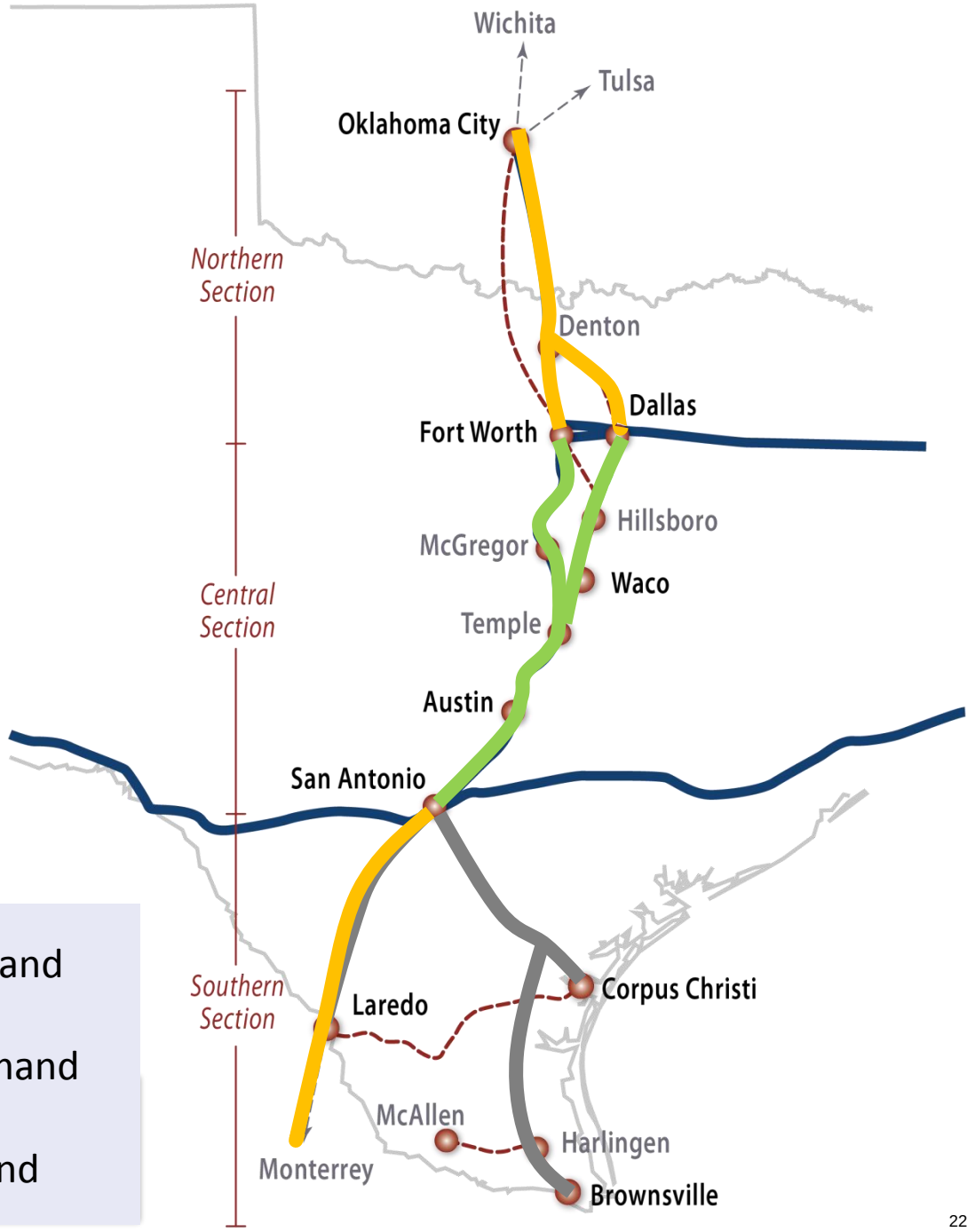
in cooperation with Oklahoma DOT
Texas Department of Transportation

TEXAS-OKLAHOMA PASSENGER RAIL STUDY

What types of improvements could be studied?

- Improved passenger rail service on existing rail routes
  - Station improvements
  - Improved connections to other transit service
  - Improved speeds and frequencies
- New passenger rail service
  - Service to new cities
  - Station improvements or new stations
  - Various speeds and frequencies
  - New or existing routes

Initial demand assessment



ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Texas Department of Transportation
in cooperation with
Oklahoma DOT

TEXAS-OKLAHOMA
PASSENGER RAIL STUDY